

ABUSE CHECKLIST OF PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL
INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Physical Indicators

- ___ unexplained bruises and welts
- ___ on face, lips, mouth
- ___ in various stages of healing
- ___ clustered, forming rectangular patterns, reflecting shape of article used to inflict (electric cord, belt buckle)
- ___ on several different surface areas
- ___ regularly appear after absence, weekend of vacation
- ___ unexplained burns
- ___ cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms back or buttocks
- ___ immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like, doughnut shaped on buttocks or genitalia)
- ___ patterns like electric burner, iron, etc.
- ___ rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso

- ___ infected burns, indicating delay in seeking treatment

- ___ abdominal distension

- ___ bald patches on the scalp

Behavioral Indicators

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- ___ feels deserving of punishment
- ___ wary of adult contact
- ___ behavioral extremes

- ___ aggressiveness or withdrawal

- ___ frightened of parents; afraid to go home
- ___ reports injury by parents

- ___ vacant or frozen stare
- ___ lies very still while surveying surroundings (infant)
- ___ responds to questions in monosyllables

- ___ inappropriate or precocious maturity

- ___ manipulative behavior to get attention
- ___ capable of only superficial relationships

- ___ alcohol or drug abuse

- ___ talks in a whisper or whine

___ other

___ torn, stained, or bloody underclothing

___ pain, swelling, or itching in the genital area

___ bruises, bleeding or lacerations in external genitalia, vaginal, or anal areas

___ vaginal/penile discharge

___ venereal disease especially in pre-teens

___ poor sphincter tone

___ pregnancy

___ other _____

___ speech disorders

___ lags in physical development

___ failure to thrive

___ hyperactive/disruptive behavior

___ shallow, empty facial appearance

SEXUAL ABUSE

___ delinquency (e.g. thefts)

___ states there is no caretaker

___ outbursts of rage

___ other _____

EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

___ unwilling to change for gym or participate in physical education class

___ withdrawal, fantasy, or infantile behavior

___ poor peer relationships

___ delinquent or runaway

___ reports sexual assault by caretaker

___ change in performance in school

___ other

___ habit disorders

___ sucking

___ biting

___ rocking

___ conduct/learning disorder

___ antisocial behavior

___ destructive

___ neurotic traits

___ sleep disorders

___ inhibition of play

___ unusual fearfulness

___ behavioral extremes

___ child does not change expression

- ___compliant, passive
- ___aggressive, demanding
- ___overly adaptive
behavior
- ___inappropriately adult
- ___developmental lags
- ___emotionally volatile
- ___attempted suicide

Indicators are not proof that abuse or neglect actually exists. Rather, they are indications that a child may have a problem and that further exploration may be necessary to determine what is happening in that child's life. Abuse and/or neglect are not the only causes of these specific behaviors or indicators.

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